10 Southwell Gardens
S. Kensington London
24 april

My dear Dr Gray

I must thank you at once for your very kind letter. There is nothing I should enjoy more than a tour in the far west & I am always looking forward to the possibility of accomplishing it. But as you remark this it is too much for a summer excursion & various circumstances have combined to make it very difficult for me - to manage it. Besides some occupations & in England

Meanwhile I have to thank you much for sending me by the last mail a number of your own papers from the Pro. amer. acad. Arts & Scien which I have hitherto had to consult at Kew - and if you can spare the set of Engelmann which you kindly offer I shall gladly accept it.

As I am spending a good deal on my Herb.m this year I will not ask you at present to buy any collections for me. I feel justified in accepting Mr Canby's offer of a set of Palmer's plants as I have a duplicate set of Bourgeau's plants of 1871 which I can send him -

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball

I find it difficult to get through any year without going to Italy where I have a house and a little property & the appearance of a little business to add to the unceasing attractions of the Country. This year I shall be able to leave England for a very short time only as I feel that I must complete my small task by the publication of the Primitiae Florae Marocanae the plates of which will require my personal superintendence.

I shall at once write to your friend Mr Canby and have little doubt that we shall be able to exchange to our mutual satisfaction. I dare say that if Mr Greene shd be so disposed I can also exchange with him as he may find most desirable.

I have always taken it for granted that through your numerous correspondents you receive almost everything you can desire from Europe & the Mediterranean region but I shall gladly take the opportunity when going through my duplicates to set aside anything that I think likely to interest you including a few plants that I have described myself & will forward the little parcel through Kew.